

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 WELLIN 04006 062310Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-05 PA-02 PRS-01 /021 W
-----120265 062322Z /70

O 062259Z SEP 77
FM AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
TO USINFO WASHDC IMMEDIATE
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 3964

UNCLAS WELLINGTON 04006

FOR IOR, IBS, IPS

EO 11652: N/A
SUBJECT: PHILIPPINES AND HUMAN RIGHTS

1. UNDER THE HEADING "RIGHTS IN THE PHILIPPINES," THE "CHRISTCHURCH PRESS (74,000), THE SOUTH ISLAND'S MAJOR NEWSPAPER, COMMENTED EDITORIALY, SEPTEMBER 3,
2. "THE DICTATORIAL REGIME OF PRESIDENT FERDINAND MARCOS, IN THE PHILIPPINES, HAS COME UNDER INCREASINGLY CRITICAL SCRUTINY IN WASHINGTON, WHERE PRESIDENT CARTER'S OUTSPOKEN CHAMPIONSHIP OF HUMAN RIGHTS IS THE NEW GUIDELINE FOR AMERICA'S RELATIONSHIPS TOWARDS COUNTRIES WHERE POLITICAL POWER IS WIELDED BY UNDEMOCRATIC REGIMES. MR MARCOS MADE GOOD USE OF THE FORUM PROVIDED BY THE RECENT CONVENING OF THE WORLD LAW CONFERENCE IN MANILA. HE INSISTED THAT NOT ONLY WAS THERE RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE PHILIPPINES, BUT ALSO THAT HIS COUNTRY WAS MOVING RAPIDLY TOWARDS 'NORMALITY'.
3. "...BUT HE ADDS, AS ALWAYS, A CAUTIONARY NOTE - THAT IF DISSENT CONTINUES TO BE EXPRESSED VIOLENTLY, FORCE WILL BE USED TO END IT, AND MARTIAL LAW WILL REMAIN. A SETTLEMENT IN MINDANAO SEEMS UNLIKELY ON THE TERMS PROPOSED BY MR MARCOS, INCLUDING PARTICIPATION BY THE MORO NATIONAL

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 WELLIN 04006 062310Z

LIBERATION FRONT IN A REGIONAL GOVERNMENT.

5. "ALSO, LITTLE HOPE CAN BE HELD FOR INTEGRATION BETWEEN MUSLIMS AND CHRISTIANS, AS EIGHT OF THE 13 PROVINCES ARE PREDOMINANTLY CHRISTIAN.
6. "AS FOR THE DETAINEES, THE RECENTLY REPORTED RELEASE

OF FEWER THAN 500 IS NO MORE THAN A TOKEN.

7. "...MR MARCOS ADMITS THAT NEARLY 5000 PRISONERS ARE
HELD IN MILITARY DETENTION; THE ACTUAL FIGURE IS BELIEVED
TO BE C

EHC

PIHDGZIBVPY XCWUGSAA;-

""89 /

.6-53.3,5

THAT NONE WERE HELD BECAUSE OF THEIR POLITICAL BELIEFS
WILL CERTAINLY BE DERISIVELY REJECTED.

8. "...MR MARCOS WILL NO DOUBT CONTINUE TO EMPHASIZE
THE COMMITMENT OF HIS REGIME TO RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS.
WHETHER HE WILL IMPRESS WASHINGTON, WHOSE SUPPORT HE
BADLY NEEDS WHEN SEEKING WORLD BANK AID TO RELIEVE HIS OWN
ECONOMIC PRESSURES, IS VERY MUCH OPEN TO QUESTION."
ANDERSON

NOTE BY OC/T: WELLINGTON 4006---AS RECEIVED; CORRECTION TO FOLLOW.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, HUMAN RIGHTS, GOVERNMENT REFORM
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 06-Sep-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977WELLIN04006
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770322-0939
Format: TEL
From: WELLINGTON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770993/aaaadapo.tel
Line Count: 81
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 3d4d034d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1372373
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PHILIPPINES AND HUMAN RIGHTS
TAGS: SOPN, PGOV, SHUM, RP
To: USIA
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/3d4d034d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009